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## **Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – May 2019**

**Area prices were up 1.2 percent over the past two months, up 2.9 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.2 percent for the two months ending in May 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices increased 7.6 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices inched down 0.1 percent for the two months ending in May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 0.6 percent, but prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.9 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 0.5 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index jumped 12.9 percent for the two months ending in May. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (20.8 percent). Prices for electricity edged up 0.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 3.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 7.6 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (10.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service increased 6.0 percent, and prices for electricity rose 0.7 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for shelter (0.9 percent) and medical care (0.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-5.6 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-2.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included education and communication (4.1 percent) and shelter (4.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-6.2 percent).

**The July 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on August 13, 2019.**

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in the State of California.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	104.749	-	105.959	2.9	1.2	-
Food and beverages .....	103.091	-	103.160	1.9	0.1	-
Food .....	103.310	-	103.208	1.9	-0.1	-
Food at home .....	101.347	100.477	100.731	0.5	-0.6	0.3
Cereals and bakery products .....	104.160	-	100.830	-3.0	-3.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	101.305	-	99.455	-2.0	-1.8	-
Dairy and related products .....	104.009	-	102.982	4.2	-1.0	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	100.928	-	99.830	1.2	-1.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials .....	104.065	-	103.745	3.3	-0.3	-
Other food at home .....	98.006	-	100.187	1.2	2.2	-
Food away from home .....	105.299	-	105.717	3.2	0.4	-
Food away from home .....	105.299	-	105.717	3.2	0.4	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	99.389	-	102.352	2.3	3.0	-
Housing .....	105.321	-	106.073	3.8	0.7	-
Shelter .....	105.414	105.796	106.395	4.0	0.9	0.6
Rent of primary residence .....	105.010	105.311	105.885	4.3	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences .....	105.143	105.779	106.557	4.5	1.3	0.7
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence .....	105.143	105.779	106.557	4.5	1.3	0.7
Fuels and utilities .....	108.780	-	108.684	4.3	-0.1	-
Household energy .....	107.086	104.645	105.997	1.7	-1.0	1.3
Energy services .....	107.071	104.570	106.254	1.9	-0.8	1.6
Electricity .....	104.409	104.568	104.577	0.7	0.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	116.285	104.576	112.053	6.0	-3.6	7.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	100.003	-	99.618	0.8	-0.4	-
Apparel .....	104.730	-	98.815	-6.2	-5.6	-
Transportation .....	106.459	-	112.441	3.7	5.6	-
Private transportation .....	106.474	-	112.415	4.0	5.6	-
New and used motor vehicles .....	102.721	-	100.163	-1.3	-2.5	-
New vehicles .....	102.620	-	101.074	-0.3	-1.5	-
Used cars and trucks .....	102.675	-	101.393	-0.4	-1.2	-
Motor fuel .....	111.006	127.737	133.899	10.5	20.6	4.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	111.025	127.879	134.064	10.6	20.8	4.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1) .....	111.150	128.269	134.497	10.6	21.0	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1) .....	111.156	126.695	133.079	11.1	19.7	5.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1) .....	110.268	125.971	131.896	10.5	19.6	4.7
Motor vehicle insurance .....	110.121	-	110.121	4.5	0.0	-
Medical care .....	101.665	-	102.416	1.6	0.7	-
Recreation .....	102.147	-	101.502	1.4	-0.6	-
Education and communication .....	103.917	-	103.586	4.1	-0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care .....	111.974	-	111.840	12.0	-0.1	-
Other goods and services .....	107.097	-	106.566	4.3	-0.5	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	104.749	-	105.959	2.9	1.2	-
Commodities .....	103.759	-	105.930	1.6	2.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages .....	104.205	-	107.784	1.4	3.4	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	104.962	-	112.304	2.1	7.0	-
Durables .....	103.116	-	101.277	0.3	-1.8	-
Services .....	105.358	-	105.977	3.8	0.6	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
All items less medical care .....	104.964	-	106.206	3.0	1.2	-
All items less shelter.....	104.377	-	105.716	2.3	1.3	-
Commodities less food .....	104.032	-	107.588	1.4	3.4	-
Nondurables .....	103.968	-	107.445	2.0	3.3	-
Nondurables less food.....	104.630	-	111.711	2.1	6.8	-
Services less rent of shelter .....	105.277	-	105.406	3.5	0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	105.566	-	106.115	3.8	0.5	-
Energy .....	109.575	119.309	123.716	7.6	12.9	3.7
All items less energy .....	104.316	-	104.365	2.5	0.0	-
All items less food and energy .....	104.503	-	104.581	2.6	0.1	-

Footnotes

(1) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.